

COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE IN THE SEWING ROOM

Colors Gray-Haired Women
Should Select for Frocks

There is, I know, quite a difference of opinion in regard to the colors that can be successfully worn by gray-haired women, and as long as gray hair does not belong to any particular age, but is seen quite often framing youthful, fresh faces as well as crowning the heads of middle age, it is no wonder that the question of becoming shades is a perplexing one.

Some authorities claim that gray should be chosen before all other tones, trying as much as possible to match gown and hair. I beg to differ. In the first place, it may be said there are many types of women as there are shades of gray, and it is obvious that what might be becoming to the woman with dainty, fresh pink and white complexion—and this may be hers whether twenty-five or fifty—will only emphasize a sallow skin and haggard features, which, too, might belong to either age. Again, how varied are the tints of gray that changes fair locks, but which is kind to the possessor than the gray of the dark, in that the contrast is less strong; the soft, silvery threads of old age and the gray of youth are not so much as sometimes above very pretty pink and white youthful faces, and again as the possession of a woman with wrinkled skin and muddy complexion.

The iron gray hair that has come naturally is perhaps the most difficult to deal with. This lacks both the softness of the mixture of gray and fair hair and the striking effect of the premature gray hair, which is really very pretty.

Iron gray hair spells middle age, and the woman who has reached this stage will probably represent either the type of the plump and buxom or the very opposite—the lean and spare, the complexion florid or sallow. There will be no between, no matter whether face or figure is concerned, except in exceptional cases, of course. I am, however, speaking generally.

The plump woman with bright color will look her best if she chooses navy blue, dark green, or black for street wear, although dark gun metal relieved by pearl or white may be selected, provided the wearer is not too stout. Gray has a tendency to increase the size, and so for this reason the thin type of women may select from any of the silver grays, combined with touches of pale blue or soft old rose, and look extremely well. If she is sallow as well as thin, then rich, deep, dark red will be exceedingly kind to her, whether for house or street use.

White may be worn by both types, but while the thin woman may add touches of color to her toilet the one of more generous build should exclude them. Her costume must be entirely white. For evening wear black below the bust will be decidedly the best possible choice, relieved with a flat ivory lace arrange-

ment about the décolletage, while for the slighter figure, dove gray, silver blue, or rich cream, a soft fichu of chiffon or lace trimming the bust, will be most suitable. A touch of pale blue or soft old rose may be the one note of color.

Touques and turbans will be more becoming than fluffy effects as headwear, dark hair turned down being naturally straight and more severe in line than hair falling into grayness. Here the ravages of time may seem to be arrested for a while by judicious dressing. This type, as a rule, has hair blue, blue gray, or violet eyes. However, the color has faded now in these as well as in hair, so becoming years also must be supplanted, not by other colors, but by pastel shades. The light tones of blue, mauve, pink, and rose will harmonize with skin, hair, and feature, softening all to a becoming mellowness, while the bright baby blue or pale rose pink in their freshness will by their contrast only proclaim the cruelty of years.

A slight woman of this type may adopt these colors for whole dresses of preference, while the opposite kind of woman should wear black relieved by these dainty shades about the face and neck. Black is especially unkind to the gray-haired woman, except when she reaches the stage of being a dear old lady, then she may wear black to her heart's content, provided she adds soft ruffles of creamy or ivory lace.

Yellow is often delightful worn as trimming by the gray-haired type, especially those whose tresses have turned prematurely. This is, however, oftener white than gray, and unless the owner is unduly stout, gray is really the best color she can choose. Not the silvery grays of gummetal or slate, but the silver grays and the soft dove tones. She can, however, select from the entire scale of colors and not so wrong, although some, of course, will suit her better than others.

Old rose is lovely in an entire gown worn by an old woman if she lacks color, while dove gray, touched by pale orange, soft pink, or turquoise blue will bring out the very best tints in face and hair.

Baby effects, too, are often wonderfully becoming, provided first youth has not fled, such as a lingerie frock with a flutter of blue ribbons and a picture esque looking hat trimmed with little wreaths of pink rosebuds and knots of blue ribbon perched upon a well-arranged coiffure. It goes without saying, however, that only those whose skin and eyes have retained their youthful appearance should attempt to wear it.

The sallow-faced woman, be her years ever so few, should never dream of wearing a soft long trailing gown of dark red crepey stuff, cut away at the neck and relieved by soft lace, a dull gold necklace set with dark red stones and a tiny wreath of scarlet flowers surmounting her pretty hair and look regal.

Costume of White Serge



In the accompanying cut is shown a very smart little coat of white serge, trimmed with very large silk crocheted buttons and tassels and touches of black velvet. The back of the coat was almost a duplicate of the front, having the two deep points finished with tassels on either side, except that the triangles of black velvet were omitted. The skirt was plaited about the hips, the lower part showing three deep tucks. The parasol was sketched from one of the newest models, and was in green tulle, the wooden staff being enameled to match. The hat was of fine black cloth trimmed with a large bow of emerald green tulle and a white rose with foliage.

HOW TO WASH HOSIERY TO PREVENT FADING

Almost any woman thinks she knows how to wash stockings, but the truth is that many a nice pair of black hose is ruined in color and tans are old before their time because of the way they are rubbed.

In the matter of children's hosiery, it is of the utmost importance that the stockings of little ones are constantly in evidence, and when well washed last longer as well as being softer.

The two most common mistakes are made in using very hot water and rubbing on soap. The latter especially should never be done even though the lather is made on the wrong side.

The water should be no more than lukewarm, and all hosiery should be turned wrong side out. A little borax should go into the water and a good suds be made with a pure laundry soap. Into this put the stockings and let them stay for ten minutes. Then with the hands rub briskly together, but do not use a brush. Throw into fresh water that has nothing but borax and rub them again.

Put into a third water, also warm, but containing neither borax nor soap. By this time they should be quite clean. Do not wring at any time, but squeeze

in the hands, for stockings to keep their color best should not be ironed. Pressing will not be necessary either if they have not been pulled away in taking from the water.

Squeezing take each hose carefully and pull into shape, putting the hand inside down to the toes and bringing it up with fingers outspread to smooth away wrinkles. Pin each one on the line as soon as wrinkles are out, leaving the top up. In this way the water will drip out, whereas if the toe is down the water is held longer.

Black pepper in the water will help to set the color before the first washing and a little salt answers the same purpose. A weak alum water is also good for black.

Children's white stockings require most careful washing for they become very dirty about the knees, yet soap should not be rubbed on them.

The irrepressible small boy who gets dirt on his stockings presents a problem wherein kerosene had best be used. Put hosiery thus soiled by itself in a basin and pour over kerosene. Let the stockings stand in this for twenty minutes. Into a jug put very hot water and enough ammonia or washing soda to make it slippery. Pour off the oil and pour over the water, stirring the stockings in it with a spoon. Let stand for a moment and toss into suds. All the changes are full and are taken out and the rest of the washing is simple.

Water is the most important since it forms the basis of all beverages. As it comes from the earth it contains more or less of few or many mineral substances; for pure water has more solvent power than any liquid. The purest water known is distilled in condensation from steam. Rain water is soft. Hard water contains more or less lime. The water which looks clearest and tastes most palatable is often most heavily impregnated with poisonous matter; and for this reason we should look carefully to the source of our water supply. When it comes from a well we should ascertain that no sewage or other offensive matter can percolate through the ground to it, and for at least one hundred and fifty feet round it no kind of surface should be allowed.

Of all made beverages coffee and tea are the most popular. Rain water with the liquid used is water, and it should be water which has just been brought to the boiling point.

Tea is the least of a shrub or bush, which grows or can be cultivated in warm climates. After being stripped from the bush the leaves are carefully dried and packed away. Tea, when bought, should be kept in tightly closed receptacles of glass or tin, in order that the aroma should be preserved. The amount of dry tea needed for each cup of tea varies according to the kind used, one teaspoonful being the popular

quantity. Pots of china or earthen ware are considered better than metal. Before making tea the pot should be heated and scalded. Then put in the dry tea, pour over it the water, which should be actually boiling. Cover closely, and steep in the warm place for three to five minutes; by that time the flavor and good constituents of the tea will be drawn out, but the tannin, which is injurious, still remains in the leaves. Strain the tea off into a fresh hot pot, and the tea is ready to serve immediately.

Coffee may be made in two ways, either by percolation or boiling. For the former some strainer or form of piggin is necessary, and the perched or roasted coffee berry should be ground as finely as possible. The usual allowance is one tablespoonful to each half pint of water. Pour the freshly boiled water a little at a time over the ground coffee, allowing it to drip through into the pot below. The contents of the pot should be kept as hot as possible without actually allowing it to boil, and should be used as soon as percolation is completed.

For boiled coffee the bean is rather coarsely ground, and with it sufficient cold water to thoroughly moisten. Turn into the pot, pour over it the requisite amount of boiling water, stop the nozzle of the spout and boil steadily for three minutes. Throw in quickly a tablespoonful or two of cold water, draw the pot back on the fire, and let stand undisturbed for five minutes. Pour out the little coffee to clear the spout, and the coffee is ready to serve.

SMART STYLES IN SUMMER WRAPS ARE DISTINCTIVE

Summer wraps and raincoats nowadays bear very little relation to the duster and waterproof of yore, and each season sees improvements in this line in both coloring and design. The automobile is no doubt largely responsible for this agreeable change, as well as the increase in public travel. For these garments cravenette is the most popular fabric, for it is shower proof and is comparatively cool.

Styles in automobile coats vary but slightly, and the only new feature this season is the extremely full skirt that falls from smooth, well-fitting shoulders. The closing is double breasted and arranged to come close to the neck when required. A new design in material for these wraps is an ideal one for every surface of gray, from light to dark, and each one melting into the other until it has all the appearance of gray mist. The sleeves are full and are confined by fairly close cuffs. The pockets are as convenient and numerous as ever.

For automobilizing these wraps are made on the regulation lines, with sleeves not quite so voluminous and a loose belt. This model is used for traveling, when a fairly heavy wrap is needed, while for dressier occasions the loose coats of pongee and other silks are popular.

Natural colored pongees, rajahs, and all weaves of raw silk appear peculiarly, and are always sure of a welcome despite their being anything but a pretty shade.

This year garments of this kind of material are made up quite a good deal on the Japanese order, with tucked shoulders and large kimono-like tucked sleeves. The trimming will cover the shoulder seams, act as a collar, trim

the fronts, and finish the edges of the sleeves in the form of bands. Sometimes Oriental embroidery is used for this, a very effective showing on a neutral background. Again, such a wrap will be given character by using gold and white soutache and the addition of fancy buttons.

Not only smart, but extremely practical, a coat of this description can be worn at almost any time of the year or in the evening, and during the summer is conveniently slipped on and off, and is so light it will not crush the gown underneath.

The backward season has kept us so long in the lightest of wraps that we have almost forgotten to preserve much the same from year to year, the skirts are fuller than heretofore, the mannish, straight box coat being now no longer in favor.

In short garments the braided pony of silk, net or chiffon broadcloth will undoubtedly lead. These, too, are decidedly practical, giving real warmth, yet being so abbreviated, do not conceal the beauty of the costume. The loose fit and the ample sleeves aid in making this model an ideal one for every surface of wear. Black is perhaps the most useful to choose for these jackets, but many of the pastel shades, literally covered with braidings, are specially attractive and have the merit of being more youthful looking.

Worn over a black dress, a coat in a dainty shade braided in deeper tones and a touch of black is exceedingly effective as a separate garment.

Little loose Etons in black peau de sole are seen a good deal and are simply trimmed with black velvet. The sleeves are full and three-quarter length. They are not elaborate.

Elderly women will cling to the three-quarter length coats of black, de sole and other kindred silks. The box model with an inverted box pleat starting at the back between the shoulders and straight fronts, being a generally becoming style, is newer than those accented with more dignified looking. Handsome passementeries make the prettiest trimming for such coats, and the sleeves should always be full and preferably gathered into bands.

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No. 1927.

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The pattern is in four sizes—two to five years. For a boy of four years, the suit requires 3½ yards of material 27 inches wide, or 2½ yards 36 inches wide, or 1½ yard 54 inches wide.

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If the room be no larger than to give place for machine, work table, and chair, she may still rejoice, for scraps may fall to the floor unheeded, and "picking up" every moment is unnecessary. To be quite ideal there should be a place for a chest of drawers, and a long mirror should hang so that the bottom of skirts may be seen easily during a fitting.

Sewing is work that should be made as easy as possible, and the first step in this direction is to cover the floor and simplify cleaning. Best of all is a covering of unbleached muslin. This should be stretched in breadths and have loops at the corners only if the room is small. If fairly large more loops in between will be required. Put thumb screws into the floor at spaces of four feet, and run the muslin over them, responding with the loops. Put down the muslin and fasten it to the screws. This will hold it firmly enough in place, and yet at the end of the day, when hundreds of tiny scraps and pieces have fallen the muslin can be lifted and shaken into the trash barrel, thus entirely doing away with sweeping.

The sewing machine should be well placed for light, and an open mouth muslin bag hanging at one end will serve as a receptacle for scraps that might otherwise fall.

The machine chair should be a straight one and perfectly comfortable when the seamstress is sitting properly. A low rocker to use when doing hand sewing makes a pleasant and useful change from the stiff, straight one.

For the Home Beautiful

Cushion covers from handkerchiefs are not particularly new, but something of a novelty was a pillow intended for baby's back when seated in its carriage. It was shaped like a miniature mattress, with the strip of cloth joining top and bottom, was filled with finest curled hair and covered with pink satin. The cushion cover was of two handkerchiefs, daintily embroidered and edged with very shallow button hole scallops, to which was hand-sewn a ruffle of half-inch Valenciennes lace.

Almost every interior decorative scheme embodied in the sketches offered for exhibition shows a bench or seat of some kind, either in the corner or across a window. Bedrooms are often dressed with mattress cushion and valance of flowered chintz or plain linen taffeta. For a library room deep, plain cushions of leather are considered most desirable. For a bedroom, where a valance is to be used, it is a good idea to make the seat on feet, so it can be moved out from the wall at pleasure or taken out altogether if desired. If made on feet the valance hides the fact that it is not built in, and it can be quickly and easily moved. The floor space under it can be used for storage just the same as if it were made in the more usual box fashion, even if it is a little more inconvenient to get down on the floor to reach at the contents.

So-called "shower lighting"—that is, a number of chain-hung lanterns or hanging heights—is the newest idea for lighting a craftsman room with electricity. It is hardly practicable where gas is to be used, as the pipe from which the lanterns would have to be suspended in this case is so much stiffer than most of the graceful effect is lost. These "chain-dropped lamps" are exceedingly decorative, besides furnishing the light in a most delightful, soft way through their globes of opalescent glass.

Cleaning Gilt Frames

Water should never be put on gilt frames. They should be wiped with dry cloth or chamois. This applies to all metals and lacquered goods. After a lacquered bed has once been wet and polished it must be continually polished, so the best plan is to keep it dry as long as possible, says Woman's Life. Roaches are deadly enemies of mirror backs, and nearly ruin many thousands. For this reason the old silver back mirror is passing away, and the new ones are coated with a composition that is proof against insects, but that does not give as fine reflection as the other sort.

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